My thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership of the Guild. Many of you have also made generous donations to Guild funds, which are very much appreciated by all of us on the Committee.

The Guild visit to Hampton Court in April was a great success and a rare occasion to meet a former owner, in the guise of His Majesty Henry VIII, although no one was quite sure to which wife we were being introduced! Another celebrity with a ghostly presence from the past was ‘Prince Albert’ who came along to help launch The Royal Parks 160th Anniversary Celebrations reported on in this newsletter.

A Royal occasion of note has to have been the recent wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton and it was rather a surprise for me to bump into the Duchess of Cornwall on a walkabout in St. James’s Park the day before the big event. That same day I visited Royal Parks staff involved in the preparation for the event and was able to see first-hand the amount of work going on behind the scenes to make sure everything was ready for this very special event. In the next edition of the newsletter it is planned to feature some of the staff working “back stage” who have to make sure everything runs smoothly, to ensure that more than one million visitors are safely catered for. To hear more about the background to the wedding it is worth visiting The Royal Parks website – www.royalparks.gov.uk – and clicking on ‘Royal Wedding’.

With the knot tied and flags put away for another day, the parks are now gearing up for a full season of events including ‘London prepares’ - practice runs for the 2012 Olympics, a Live Nation concert series, BBC Proms in the Park and to end the year, A Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park. Again more information can be found on the Royal Parks website, and all part of the 160th Anniversary Celebrations.

In closing, I can reveal that plans to hold the Guild’s own event to celebrate its 50th year anniversary and to be held later in 2011, are going well. Meanwhile, I wish you a glorious summer but as a gardener, hoping for enough rain to restore and invigorate our parched parks and gardens.

Mike Nutt

**OLYMPICS 2012...**

Royal Parks that are hosting events have now been confirmed.

- **GREENWICH PARK**
  Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events, and elements of the Modern Pentathlon

- **HORSE GUARDS PARADE GROUND**
  Beach Volleyball

- **HYDE PARK**
  Triathlon and Marathon Swimming

- **THE MALL in ST. JAMES’S PARK**
  Elements of Road Cycling, the Olympic and Paralympic Marathon and Race Walks

- The Road Cycling event will pass through Bushy and Richmond Parks.
- TRPs are also working with the GLA over plans for a Festival Life Site based in Hyde Park throughout the Olympic Games, providing Games coverage as well as cultural programmes.

**NEW NAME AND NEW LISTING**

The Arethusa, more popularly known as the Diana Fountain in Bushy Park has now been awarded Grade 1 listing.

**IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

Chairman’s Report  
So what’s going on with the parks?  
Newsletter Feedback  
160 Years and Roy Sanderson Profile  
Snippets  
The Man Who Loved Daffodils  
NEW SERIES Noelle Leigh remembers  
New members & People news  
SEPARATE SHEET: Hampton Court Special  
TRPG Spring Visit  
The Life and Times of George Cooke
So, what’s going on with the parks?

The Royal Parks we all know and love are going through something of a revolution. With reduced funding and reduced staffing, and the increased need for a streamlined organisation to be more significantly self-funded, will any changes taking place within the parks also mean that standards, and the public face of the parks, change too?

Until just a couple of weeks ago we believed the administration of the parks was moving from one centre, to another. In fact, since last autumn the parks’ management was gearing itself up for a major shift in administration. But this will not now happen – at least in the immediate future. So, what was the move intended to be?

For a year or more there was considerable speculation about the move of The Royal Parks (TRP) from central government funding to the Greater London Authority (GLA) under Mayor Boris Johnson. To understand this more fully, I think we need to go back to basics.

The TRP currently manages the parks, and answers to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) which in recent times provided around 50% of the parks’ funding. In January of this year the DCMS announced it intended to move the Royal Parks to the GLA, but stated that the Government did not propose any changes to how the parks were managed, nor to the standards of maintenance, nor to what was offered to the public within the sites.

Under the new regime, the TRP would be transferred to City Hall, and report directly to the Mayor. Although the union was set to become law this November, it was unlikely that the GLA would have assumed full control until after the London Olympic Games, and probably not until early 2013. In the meantime the DCMS announced it would cut its annual grant by 25%, raising questions about the potential impact on the parks.

Boris Johnson spoke in the press about the parks’ transfer, saying: “We want to keep The Royal Parks whole and entire, there has to be a lot of borough participation and consultation on the way the parks are to be run.” He also said that he couldn’t take on the parks as they were without proper government funding. No surprise there! Many campaigners were sceptical about the move, and worried about future exploitation of the sites. The Mayor did, however, pledge to work “sensitively” with local people.

So, after the best part of a year of talking, planning and strategic thinking, it seems almost certain now that the planned handover of The Royal Parks to the Mayor of London’s office will NOT go ahead (although as this edition of the Newsletter goes to press, we are still awaiting final confirmation).

Why the last minute change? Well, the transfer was due to be included in the Localism Bill, but the last opportunity in the Commons passed a couple of weeks ago, and there was no mention of it.

Therefore, funding for The Royal Parks will, for the time being, remain under direct government control under the Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt at the DCMS. Many sources now believe that a new board will be set up, to include Boris Johnson and a representative of the Queen (who will still be ‘the owner’ of the parks). There may also be local consultative committees, but that has not been confirmed.

The DCMS is due to issue a statement any day now, giving details on the current position. Watch this space!
NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Our recent newsletters have elicited some interesting feedback from members.

Guild Member Sally Kelsey writes: “My husband Alan had a relative who had received the Victoria Cross, on Friday, 26th June 1857. He was fifth to receive his. His name was William Nathan Wright Hewett. He became a Vice Admiral later on, known as Bully Hewett to naval personnel of that time. Also, Alan’s Great Great Grandfather Kennedy Hewett had a brother – Prescott Hewett – who is buried in Brompton Cemetery. He was a doctor-surgeon who practised at St. George’s Hospital at Hyde Park Corner.”

Guild Member Betty Rose wrote to us after seeing Jean Cooke’s photo in Newsletter No 3. Betty remembers Jean living at No. 1 in the Mews, Bushy Park, and wishes to be remembered to her. Betty has lived in the Mews for 50 years now.

Guild Member Mike Cole responded to our Summer/Autumn 2010 newsletter. In it there was a piece on the Royal Parks Rifle Club, and Mike himself was in the club and took part in inter-parks shoots during the 60s. The winners’ shield bears the engraved names of winners over the years, and we asked if any members knew who the winners were. Mike sheds some light:

- **1956 T. Lloyd** – this was Terry Lloyd, a tree lopper, who possibly shared accommodation at White Ash Lodge.
- **1957 T. Lord** – this was Ted Lord, who was Mr. Norris’ (Under Superintendent) driver; he wore cap and uniform and drove the only Landrover in the 1960s.
- **1958 T. Humphreys** – this was Tom Humphrey, Richmond Parks carpenter, whose job Mike took over in 1972.
- **1971 W. Brown** – this was Bill Brown (not Buster), a motorcyclist in the RPC and who lived in the New Lodge at Richmond Gate.
- **1972/3 Mrs. M. Gubbins** – this was Marge Gubbins, a WPC in the Richmond Park Team.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

To superintend Regent’s Park

A South Devon man has become superintendent of one of London’s most famous open spaces, Regent’s Park. He is 35-year-old Mr. Robert William Legge, a native of Torquay and a former employee of Torquay Parks Department. He was also a student at the Devon Farm Institute, Brixton, before he became a private landscape gardener in 1958.

From 1964–66 he attended the Royal Horticultural Society College at Witley where he won the Nicholson Prize for the best all-round student. He worked as a member of the college staff for a year before joining the Department of the Environment’s Central Parks staff in 1967 as a deputy superintendent.

MISTELTOE SURVEY

Many people see mistletoe as damaging to tree health and that it should be removed. What people don’t know is that it is one of Britain’s least understood native plants, with potential health benefits. To find more about its spread, the London borough of Richmond upon Thames asked for volunteers to monitor it. As part of this, surveys are taking place on an avenue of 24-year-old lime trees located beside the canal walk in Hampton Court Palace gardens. The surveys show that the number of mistletoe plants continues to increase at a very healthy rate, but no one really knows why they are growing so profusely on these young trees. More than half of the 200 trees surveyed have shown mistletoe in them, some with up to 17 plants. Next time you go to Hampton Court take time to look at the trees and see for yourself. Dave Ivison
As remembered by: Chris Gallehawk

We first met on our interview day for the student group at Wisley in the spring of 1956. George had recently left the employ of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. We became members of Wisley Group XI. George was mainly into rugby and I preferred cricket. But I do remember on one occasion he and I opening the bowling in a cricket match on Kew Green against Kew students.

Final exams came in the summer of 1958 and I can remember George with his 'cheery optimism' stating that we were all going to fail. On the final day we learnt with relief that we had all got through; George and I in the middle ratings. After Wisley George went to Teachers' Training College, still playing rugby, and he sustained a broken leg and was nursed back to health by a fellow student Jean, who later became his wife. Another student, David Lemon, and I were invited to their wedding.

In the early 1960s George was appointed Apprentice Master to The Royal Parks. The students’ demonstration plots were set up in Osterley Park (then managed by The Royal Parks) and I remember going along to see how he had set up the site as a training facility, because the LCC/GLC Parks had decided to run a Training Centre for their apprentices in Finsbury Park on similar lines.

George will be long remembered by his friends, by the apprentices he trained and by the tough standards he set. He got results. But above all he imparted to his apprentices a sense of purpose, that they had a vocation for life in taking up amenity horticulture and it was worthwhile making parks and gardening a career choice.

As remembered by: Dennis Smith

As a representative of a horticultural sundriesman, I have fond memories of my first meeting with George. It was in his office in the spring of 1984.

He indicated that I should sit in one of the two green leather armchairs in the office, whilst George took up a commanding position in his chair on the opposite side of the desk (which I reckon was about an acre in size). He was of medium build, and had a ‘ruddy’ complexion, with bright eyes which were fixed upon me. Eventually came the ‘punch’ question: “Dennis, we have a large grapevine here at Hampton Court and it suffers from attack by woodworm. How would you treat it?” My reply – pre-Health and Safety! – was to spray with liquid nicotine. That seemed to be the sort of answer he was looking for and I was accepted. I never did get an order for that product, and neither did I get to taste a grape!

The George Cooke Award, launched in 2010, is dedicated to George and his enormous contribution to the lives and careers of the many apprentices who he taught in his role as The Royal Park’s first Apprentice Master.

Apprentices from the 1966 intake with George Cooke in the middle. It was taken at Osterley Park training ground. Names left to right: John Frost, Jill Platt, Peter Itzinger, Paul Wood, Roy Evans, G. Hazelton, George Cooke, Peter Austin, (?), Chris Riley, Mike Fitt and Hilary Digby.
Intensive archaeology and research informed the restoration (1991-95). Stepping beyond, we passed the Pond Gardens and new display beds for Queen Mary’s “Exotics” in the Glass Case Garden, standing in front of the Orangery; then to the Great Vine with its pampered soil heating. And then we went to lunch at the Clore Education Centre; the Guild would like to thank HRP staff and their volunteers for organising this.

The visit continued for a brief “behind the scenes” peek around the glasshouse nurseries where nursery supervisor Martin Einchcomb explained operations including Hampton Court’s national Plant Collections of Heliotrope and Lantana. Returning to the East Front of the Palace, Nicholas Garbutt (Tree and Wildlife Conservation Manager) took charge and explained conservation measures for the great yews, before leading a brief excursion into the Kingston Avenue in the Home Park to look at very old and very recently planted limes.

Nick explained the current studies being undertaken on mistletoe on the limes here at Hampton Court and also in Bushy Park, including on recently planted trees. This concluded the tour. Mike Fitt gave a vote of thanks to Terry for his excellent tour and historical anecdotes, and to Martin and Nick for their helpful and interesting insights. Hampton Court showed us its glories, the weather was kind, the timetable impeccable – and we escaped with our heads! Thanks to Historic Royal Palaces for hosting this wonderful event.
160 Years of The Royal Parks

Date: 10th May 2011 Report by: Mike Fitt

In 1851, and with the full support of Queen Victoria, The Crown Lands Act transferred management of The Royal Parks to the Government. This meant that the public were freely able to enjoy access to all of London's Royal Parks for the first time. Today, 37 million people annually visit the parks.

The 160th anniversary celebrations to mark the passing of the Act were officially launched on the 10th May this year with the unveiling of a new art project in Hyde Park to commemorate the Great Exhibition of 1851. Since the dismantling of the Crystal Palace and its transfer to Sydenham Hill after the Great Exhibition closed, all traces of the original layout disappeared. Now, thanks to the work of artist Virginia Nimarkoh (pictured above left), five plaques and an interpretation panel mark the outline of the building and explain its history. ‘Prince Albert, the originator of the Great Exhibition, was also present at the event!

Even though 160 years seems a long time, the organised management of the Crown Lands, including significant parts of the present day Royal Parks, stretches back centuries.

Records first began in 1378 with the setting up of the Office of Works within the English Royal Household to oversee the building of royal castles, residences and associated land.

In 1832, the Office of Works became part of the Office of Woods, Forests, Land Revenues, Works and Buildings.

In 1851 it was constituted as a government department with the Royal Parks estate still owned by the Monarch 'in right of the Crown'. But overall management passed to the Commissioners for Works, now the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, or DCMS, with day to day management devolved to The Royal Parks.

Now, 150 years on, further changes are planned. Would Queen Victoria be amused? Unfortunately we will never know but whatever the outcome, the Royal Parks remain a remarkable reminder of the Royal hunting grounds that once covered much of London, and a green refuge for all to enjoy.

In the next issue: The 'Lost' Royal Parks.

ROY SANDERSON
ROYAL PARKS GUILD WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER 2010

In 1959 Roy Sanderson, always a keen bird watcher, decided to change his job and began working in the newly built Bowater House (now demolished), on the edge of Hyde Park. During one of his lunch breaks, close by the Speaker's Memorial in Kensington Gardens, he was attracted by the call of a nuthatch. It was here that he met Charlie Parsons and Chris Hawes, who were the Official Bird Recorders for the parks (contributors to the annual report prepared by the Government's Royal Parks Bird Committee).

They invited Roy to join them, and so began his official involvement in The Royal Parks, first as an 'Official Observer (Birds)' and then latterly, as a volunteer birdwatcher. He carries on his recording role to the present day. When the Central Parks Wildlife Group was set up in the early 1980s Roy went along and quickly became a member of the Committee.

Jennifer Adams, who was at the time Superintendent of Central Parks, knows Roy well, and says: 'When I went back to work for The Royal Parks in 1983, I wanted to find out more about the wildlife present. There was no survey being done, and the groups that had earlier been formed by the Government had now been abolished. I discovered from talking to Malcolm Kerr (Central Parks Bird Keeper) that some former members of the bird committee still did annual surveys and bird-ringing. When Mike Fitt set up the Central Royal Parks Wildlife Group, of which I was a member, we invited Roy to come along, and he became a stalwart volunteer.'

It was Roy who drew up the guidelines for volunteers to carry out the annual song bird census, and led novices on 5am walks in the spring to help recognise bird song and record it correctly. Using the official surveys for reference, the Government used to publish a yearly booklet called Bird Life in the Royal Parks which ceased publication in the 1970s. Carrying on the tradition, Roy went into print in 1995, in association with E.M. Nicholson, to produce Bird Watching in London. Two unusual sightings include: 'Osprey, the only accepted record is of one which attempted to fish by the Serpentine Bridge on 2nd May 1967.' And a Hoopoe, seen in Kensington Gardens on the 7th November 1967 was regarded by the observers 'as a sight they would always remember!'

Roy now lives in West Sussex but continues as a member of the Central Parks Wildlife Group, and still takes a keen interest in the Capital's bird population. Roy is a worthy winner of the Guild's Wildlife Conservation Award.
The LookOut, Hyde Park

The LookOut – a new eco-friendly centre in Hyde Park is a £2.2m partnership between The Royal Parks and The Royal Parks Foundation. Just weeks away from completion the building is inspired by trees, and is designed to blend into the landscape and encourage biodiversity. The LookOut will open fully in September, offering hands-on experiences and learning through play.

Dwarf Orchard, Greenwich Park

On the 16th March staff and volunteers at Greenwich Park joined representatives from local organisations to plant the new Dwarf Orchard near the Children’s Playground.

The Dwarf Orchard is named after the formal walled garden created in this part of the park in the 1700s. The Orchard is part funded by the Friends of Greenwich Park and will be used for education and conservation initiatives when it opens next year.

Ornithology Website

Images of birds seen in Regents Park may be viewed on a blog site run by Tony Duckett. Tony has worked in the park since 1977 as assistant bird keeper, before becoming what is now termed Wildlife Officer. The park checklist now stands at over 200 species, of which 45 species breed annually within the parks boundaries. Visit: www.regentsparkbirds.co.uk

50 Years of Friends of Richmond Park

On 27th March the Friends of Richmond Park and many others who have helped with the development of the Friends, gathered at Pembroke Lodge to look back over half a century’s work. Friend’s President Lord Rix reminisced about living near the Park for 53 years, seeing sheep in the Park and paying a ‘Dear Leap Tax’ in the early days. Sir David Attenborough beat even Lord Rix’s long connection with Richmond Park with his 60 years of living within half a mile of the Park and he enthused about this complex and fascinating web of life on our doorstep, its positive effects on the suburban ecology and praised the newly published Guide to Richmond Park. Co-founder Wendy Macaulay spoke engagingly of the hard but ultimately rewarding work involved in establishing the Friends and Chairman Ron Crompton thanked the too many to name who had worked to sustain the Friends over the last 50 years.

Right: A copy of Notice of Inaugural Meeting of The Friends of Richmond Park.

Left: Lord Rix CBE (President), Wendy Macaulay (Founder Member), Ron Crompton (Chairman) and Sir David Attenborough (Patron)

NOTICE OF INAUGURAL MEETING

THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

Members of the Richmond Society (and others interested) are invited to attend

THE INAUGURAL MEETING

OF

THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

to be held at

THE STATION HOTEL, RICHMOND

on

MONDAY, 27TH MARCH at 5 p.m.

Lt. Col. John Gower will be in the Chair

Current developments at the eastern end of Hyde Park and the north-western tip of Green Park - both now totally sacrificed to the needs of motor traffic, and more still to come - show us all too clearly that the Royal Parks are now engaged in a 'fair game' for road improvement, and already there are ominous signs that Richmond Park is no longer safe from future extensive 'improvements'.

The raising of the speed limit from the distinctive 20 mph and the opening of the Park to motor traffic for a few hours after dark, both perhaps fairly small changes in themselves, are seen as the first two steps in a series which, if unchecked at the outset, will in the end spell ruin of Richmond Park as we know it.

Richmond Park must be kept out of the main road traffic system.

It must be preserved for those (including motorists) who wish to enjoy its peace and beauty.

No concessions at all must be made to motorists who wish to use the Roads of Richmond Park as a throughway.

Over the next five or ten years enormous pressures are likely to build up to use the Park for more and more through motor traffic. The first steps have already been taken. They must be reversed if possible, and each subsequent step must be resisted and contested to the full. Otherwise? There is no space here to paint the picture of an ‘improved’ Richmond Park, We shall try to do so at our Meeting on 27th March. If you are interested please come along, if you feel all this is a lot of fuss about nothing’ than take a look at what has happened to the eastern end of Hyde Park before you make up your mind.

Joint Hon. Sec. Mrs. Wendy Macaulay
54 Rosemont Road, Richmond.
Richmond 6845
He approached as I was cutting the grass in Regent's Park. Stopping and
sniffing the spring air he pronounced:
"This is beauty!"
"Yes it is", I replied, used to
concuring with oft repeated banalities
concerning the beauty of the park.
"See those daffodils over there", he
pointed, "each one is an art form, a
masterpiece of nature." I was happy to
agree. He introduced himself as John
Lawrie, the artist. He had studios in
London and Bristol and was shortly to
hold an exhibition of his works at the
Festival Hall, to which I was invited.

We discussed art and artists. "All
great artists are revolutionaries", he
said. "I am a revolutionary."
"Yes?" My interest was aroused. As
if to allay any possible doubts I may
have had about his revolutionary
credentials, he launched into a tirade
against capitalism in general and the
conspiracy of Zionism and Freemasonry
in particular. Waving his brolly in the
direction of the Nash terraces, he said:
"At this very minute they are conspiring
against us in their secret clubs."
"I expect they are," I said. Perhaps
finding encouragement in my
observation, he said he proposed to
take me into his confidence. Feeling
rather flattered, I listened respectfully as
he outlined his plans to build a
revolutionary party.

"I am", he said, "an extremely wealthy
man and am in control of about 50 major
companies and finance houses." He also
let slip that he was of the aristocracy and
was an intimate of circles close to the Queen, one member of which, a Duchess, he would be dining with that evening.

"The true aristocracy", he said, "find the royals vulgar." I agreed that they probably would. He then revealed to me his plan to set up
a workers' dictatorship, on a Marxist-Leninist model. His plans involved buying out the remaining companies and banks which he did
not own, and this to be done with the aid of powerful backers in America. Men who, he said, wanted to "do England down". And when
he had obtained control he would announce the Revolution and the end of Capitalism.

This novel and ingenious plan to seize state power won my almost unreserved admiration. Standing before me was the Lenin of
the British Revolution. I readily fell in with his plans. This agreement was strengthened quite considerably when he said he was going to
give me £5000 to furnish a barge on the Regent's Canal. On this barge, he added, myself and other specially chosen and selected
lieutenants of his, could plan the revolution, free from mundane financial worries and interference from the forces of the state.

Mr. Lawrie, the artist and the revolutionary leader, then shook hands with me, and said that he had to be off. He would see me
again tomorrow. The conversation he had just had with me, he said, was amongst the most interesting he had ever had in his life.
The following morning Mr. Lawrie invited me and a blonde girl he had met in the park, to meet him on Friday evening at 7pm at the
National Theatre, and from there we would go to dinner and discuss his plans for the revolution.

END OF PART ONE
Noelle Leigh remembers...

PART ONE:
Start of the TRAILBLAZERS

I didn't want to go, and I had several reasons why I shouldn't go – after all most AGMs are boring, and at this one there was to be no guest speaker. Instead Dennis Goddard, the Assistant Superintendent, was going to give us an update on what was happening at The Stockyard. Apart from that I was a fairly new member of The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks, and I had not yet made any friends. However, I listened to the little voice in my head that said 'you've joined so you really should support the meeting'. So I went, and that meeting changed my life dramatically for the next decade.

At the meeting Dennis Goddard mentioned that The Royal Parks were hoping to set up an Environmental Education Centre at The Stockyard, and I thought: 'I could do the occasional tree walk for them'. Trees had been my passion for many years and I was involved in giving 'Tree Educational' talks, and planting trees for schools in Surrey. One of the Friends of Bushy suggested that I should get in touch with Mike Fitt, then Superintendent of Richmond and Bushy Parks, who was keen to set up the Education Centre.

Subsequently I wrote to Mike and he suggested that I contact Tony Molloy, Project Manager at Bushy Park. I met Tony on April 6th 1992. He was very enthusiastic about the idea and we decided to walk down the Old Lime Avenue that runs parallel with the road that goes up to White Lodge. We both agreed that it would make a perfect nature trail. The environment contained native trees, stinging nettles for butterflies, and logs for insects. And so the idea was born. I was so excited after having met Tony that I actually skipped out of The Stockyard!

During the next two months Tony and I worked out how we could arrange classrooms and trails. It seemed to me that whatever I wanted to do, Tony would say: 'That's fine, go ahead'. In fact, one day he said: 'Noelle, Bushy Park is your second home. Do what you like!' And indeed it did feel like my second home – and I just loved it!

Notices were put up in the Park asking for volunteers. Four keen former teachers, myself and John Comfort (the gamekeeper) met with Mike Fitt. 'Bright Eyed in Bushy', with five 'Trailblazers', was officially created.

Shortly after this, Tony became very unwell and had to go into hospital, so Dennis manfully took on the job of helping four rather demanding Trailblazers set up the classrooms and changing room. We were fortunate in inheriting various chests of drawers and cupboards from The Royal Parks Apprentice School (which had been based at Eltham Palace and had recently been closed down) and along with the furniture came some very technical looking microscopes.

This was a very busy time for the Trailblazers, not only did we have to order tables and chairs but also all the stationery for classroom activities. It was such fun and rather like setting up our own little school!

We were grateful to have some more keen volunteers, each with their own expertise, and I particularly remember one, Margaret, a former teacher who walked into our little office and said: 'Well I'm here'. I explained what we were doing and she said: 'I'll go away and think about it'. She returned half an hour later saying she would join.

The next big task was to put the programme for the day together. We debated long and hard, as the ideas kept coming. We decided not to do pond dipping, as none of us had done any and it seemed best to concentrate on the Nature Trail. What we didn't realise was that the brochures had already been sent out to the local schools, and had included an option to do 'pond dipping'.

"But", I said to Dennis, "we aren't doing pond dipping".

Dennis replied "Well, somehow it got into the brochure and all the schools are looking forward to their pupils enjoying this particular activity."

In the next issue of the Royal Parks Guild newsletter we will find out about how the Trailblazers involved local children and others in the enthralling activity...of pond dipping!

BUSHY PARK
ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE
SCHOOL VISITS
1992/93

BRIGHT EYED IN BUSHY
"ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
FOSTERS SELF-RELIANCE
INITIATIVE AND CONCERN
FOR OTHERS ........."
(from Learning through Landscapes)

On 2nd December 1992, ‘Bright Eyed in Bushy’ was officially opened by The Secretary of State for National Heritage, The Right Honourable Peter Brooke.
NEW TRPG MEMBERS

(those joining between Jan-May 2011)
A = APPRENTICE or Ex-APPRENTICE
PA = PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARKS
ExS = Ex STAFF  ExSTC = TRP STAFF TRANSFERRED TO CONTRACTOR
CurS = CURRENT STAFF

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Woodiff, Bryan
Long involvement with Bushy Park as a local councillor. PA

Cole, Mike
Carpenter/Sawyer 35 years at Richmond Park. ExS

Richardson, Douglas
Former employee of Regents Park and Richmond Park. ExS

MacKenzie, Ken
Project Implementation Manager, Thames Landscape Strategy based at Richmond Park, PA

PEOPLE...

Mark & Milly Camley – Congratulations on the arrival of their baby daughter Francesca

Bill Cathcart, Superintendent at Windsor Great Park – Wishing him well on his retirement in April this year

Tom Jarvis, Park Manager, Kensington Gardens – Congratulations to Tom who has been appointed Superintendent, Windsor Great Park

Stuart Goldsworthy, Greenwich Park – We wish Stuart well in his retirement after a long career with the Royal Parks

CYNTHIA PIPER
Cynthia has just retired as a volunteer, after serving 40 years with the Horse Rangers Association, based at Hampton Court Mews and Bushy Park.

RICHARD FLENNLEY

Richard has retired as Principal at Land Use Consultants (pictured here at his retirement party held at Holly Lodge in Richmond Park in May). He is passionate about historic landscapes and has been an advisor to The Royal Parks since 1980. His contribution to the landscape and heritage of the Parks is considerable and varied, including research and plans for the Restoration of the 17th century water garden at Bushy Park, Tamsin Cycle Path in Richmond Park, and landscape restoration in Greenwich Park. He is also a stalwart supporter of the Holly Lodge Centre in Richmond Park and a member of the Guild.

DAVE SMITH (1938-2011)
Retired gamekeeper, Richmond Park

Dave Smith, who sadly passed away earlier this year after a long illness, retired eight years ago from the position of Senior Wildlife Officer at Richmond Park. We are sure he would have preferred to have been known by the rather less politically correct but more accurate description as Head Deer Keeper.

Dave joined Richmond Park as a tree worker in 1971 following medical advice that he required a less stressful life from that of a trainee London Cab driver! John Bartram, the current Senior Wildlife Officer relates how he knew Dave from a quite early age as fellow residents of Ham and how he acted as a mentor to him over the years. Dave worked first under Michael Baxter Brown, then Mike Fitt and finally Simon Richards.

He soon moved from estate work to the position of Assistant Gamekeeper, eventually being promoted to Head Gamekeeper in the mid 1980’s. He was almost entirely self taught and read extensively, his knowledge of deer and their behaviour became comprehensive and over the years the quality and balance of the Richmond Park herds improved considerably from what was arguably a low point in the early 1980’s where the Park was hugely overstocked. A large die off in the herd one winter instigated a considerable amount of research by researchers from Southampton University and subsequent recommendations as to the correct size and winter feeding regime for the herds were agreed and remain best practice to this day.

Dave is also remembered for his role as a shop steward where he was noted for his support for fair treatment across all members of staff. He lived first at Pembroke Lodge Cottage and then moved with his second wife, Debbie, to Bishops Lodge. Over the years, Dave was very interested in photography and built up a large collection of video film detailing all aspects of the work that was undertaken in the Park. It is to be hoped that this film will find its way to the Pembroke Lodge History Collection in due course for conservation. He will be fondly remembered by all those he worked with as a kind and fair man who was always willing to share his knowledge and understanding of his love of the Park and its wildlife. We will long remember a night at the end of the cull one winter celebrating the completion of yet another arduous season with an in depth examination of a particularly good bottle of single malt whisky. Happy memories!

John Bartram & Simon Richards. 18th May 2011.

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